



A.R.C. • P.O. Box 72832, Fairbanks, Alaska 99707 • (907) 452-6461 • [akcoins@mosquitonet.com](mailto:akcoins@mosquitonet.com)

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DECEMBER, 2006.



## GEOCACHING



There is a relatively new activity out there in the woods these days. And not only in the woods. It is also happening in cities and towns, rural areas and urban areas. There used to be (it may still be there) a cache in downtown Fairbanks, not 100 yards from our store. It is called geocaching, and it is a modern days sort-of treasure hunt. It started in 2000, and has just exploded from that time. For more information on geocaching, go to <http://www.geocaching.com> and explore their website. This site is quite interesting and has more detail than I can go into here.

“Geocachers” secrete caches in various locations. A cache can be the size of a matchbox, it can be a plastic container or it may be an ammo can. In any case, it should be weather-tight. I was told that they cannot be physically buried. If there is a pile of rocks, it is permissible to move some rocks, place the cache in the pile, and re-pile the rocks. They can be placed in a tree, or inside a man made object (for instance, a trash can). The location of the cache is then publicized, usually on the internet in GPS format.

The object of the “game” is to find the cache, and leaving it in place so others may also find it. So, armed with their trusty GPS units, the geocachers take to the hills, fields and streams (and vacant lots, parks and parking lots) and go to the coordinates for the cache. The GPS will put you within a few feet or meters of the cache, and then the hunting begins.



Often inside the cache are inexpensive objects for the finder to take, and hopefully to replace with something else. That something else is sometimes a wooden nickel. See David Phillips article on page 76. The medals illustrated on this page are generally too expensive to leave in a cache on a frequent basis. These have been made to publicize geocaching and some of the groups that participate.



North of 60°

South of 50°

At the top of the page is the 2005 Geocoin. These are sold out. The 2006 Geocoin (left) is available at <http://www.geocachealaska.org/alaskageocoins.htm> in brass, silver and silver with gold relief. There is also a 1 inch “geopin” available.

# EDITOR'S COMMENTS PRICES REALIZED

In keeping with our front page theme, Dave Phillips was kind enough to provide information on Geocaching woods. Geocaching is gaining in popularity. We can only hope that we don't see as many geocaching coins as we are seeing of the military challenge coins!

Another year has come to an end. At this time we would like to thank our contributors. Without them, this publication would cease to exist. In order of appearance, our thanks go to:

David Phillips	Cliff Mishler
Kaye Dethridge	Candy Waugaman
Kurtis Hawk	Ron Benice
Ken Rieck	Dan Frederik
Fred Holabird	Lee Poleske
David Guevara	David Byard
Rich Witrosky	Mike Locke

As the year ends, so do most subscriptions. If your mailing label ends with 06/10, it is time to renew. Please use the enclosed subscription form. Other subscribers whose subscriptions do not expire with this issue will also receive a subscription renewal form, prorated so that your subscription will end with issue #10 of 2007. You can renew now (and make my life easy), or we will send you another notice when your subscription expires.

If you choose to not renew your subscription, we would like to thank you for your support, and hope that we may be of service in the future.

Best Wishes for a joyous holiday season and a prosperous new year.

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<b>Cordova</b> , Horseshoe, 6½¢, B-19a	49.00OB
<b>Cordova</b> , Horseshoe Liquor, 6½¢, B-20a	OB40.00NB
<b>Cordova</b> , Little, 12½¢, B-22a	OB150.00NB
<b>Dillingham</b> , Bradford, 5¢, B-1a	OB125.00NB#
<b>Douglas</b> , Canteen Saloon, 5¢, B-4a	635.00
<b>Dutch Harbor</b> , N.O.B. Ship's Service, 5¢, B-1a	20.00OB
<b>Fairbanks</b> , Chisholm & Hall, 12½¢, B-12a	95.00OB
<b>False Pass</b> , Harris, 10¢, B-1bI	225.00OB
<b>Ft. Yukon</b> , Carney & Irvin, 25¢, B-1a	45.44
<b>Juneau</b> , Burford's, \$1, B-12d	75.00OB
<b>Juneau</b> , Franklin Hotel, 12½¢, B-22a	1,130.00
<b>Juneau</b> , Juneau Liquor, 12½¢, B-39b	OB295.00NB
<b>Juneau</b> , Mecca, 2½¢, B-50a	295.00
<b>Juneau</b> , Mecca, 6½¢, B-50b	95.00NB
<b>Katalla</b> , Northern, no denom., B-5a	484.00#
<b>Katalla</b> (Catalla), AK Pacific RR pay chit	255.00
<b>Ketchikan</b> , BPOE 1429, 12½¢, B-5a	OB60.00NB#
<b>Ketchikan</b> , Finzel's, 5¢, B-14aI	60.00OB#
<b>Ketchikan</b> , Lucky Spot, 5¢, B-32a	30.30
<b>Ketchikan</b> , Quality Bakery, 1 sm. Loaf, B-48a	OB25.00NB
<b>Kodiak</b> , Nelson & Kroth, 12½¢, B-11a	125.00OB
<b>Long</b> , Willis, 25¢, B-2a	51.00
<b>Long</b> , Willis, 25¢, B-2a	39.99OB
<b>Nenana</b> , Smoke House, 12½¢, B-7a	40.00OB
<b>Nome</b> , Board of Trade, 5¢, B-8a	OB175.00NB
<b>Nome</b> , Horseshoe Cafe, 25¢, B-27a	175.00OB
<b>Nome</b> , The Nevada, 12½¢, B-35c, holed	265.00
<b>Nome</b> , North Pole Bakery, 5¢, B-39a	90.00OB
<b>Nome</b> , Polet, \$1, B-41h	OB25.00NB
<b>Palmer</b> , ARRC, 1¢, B-1a	69.00
<b>Palmer</b> , ARRC, 1¢, B-1a	68.99
<b>Palmer</b> , ARRC, 1¢, B-1a	OB49.00NB
<b>Palmer</b> , ARRC, 1¢, 5¢ and 10¢, B-1 a-c	270.50
<b>Palmer</b> , ARRC, 5¢, B-1b	68.00
<b>Palmer</b> , ARRC, 5¢, B-1b	44.32
<b>Palmer</b> , ARRC, 10¢, B-1c	34.00
<b>Palmer</b> , ARRC, 10¢, B-1c	48.32
<b>Palmer</b> , ARRC, 25¢, B-1d	62.32
<b>Palmer</b> , ARRC, 50¢, B-1e	128.38
<b>Palmer</b> , ARRC, \$1, B-1f	144.82
<b>Palmer</b> , ARRC, \$5, B-1g	152.51
<b>Palmer</b> , ARRC, \$10, B-1h	167.51
<b>Petersburg</b> , OK's Place, 10¢, B-7b	OB40.00NB#
<b>Seldovia</b> , Cash Store, 5¢, B-5a	25.00OB
<b>Seward</b> , Northern, 12½¢, B-8bIII	OB35.00NB
<b>Seward</b> , The Palace, 12½¢, B-10c	30.00OB
<b>Sitka</b> , Witz, 5¢, B-17a	OB45.00NB
<b>Skagway</b> , Seattle Saloon, 12½¢, B-23aI	92.05
<b>Tenakee</b> , Brunswick Billiard, 12½¢, B-1a	OB175.00NB
<b>Tenakee</b> , Hugh Day, \$1 (very corroded)	97.00
<b>Tonsian</b> , Nafsted, 12½¢, B-1a	OB40.00NB
<b>Valdez</b> , Copper Block, 12½¢ TC, B-4a	39.86
<b>Valdez</b> , Copper Block, \$1, B-4cI	RLOB1595.00NB#

continued on page 77

# MONEY TO BURN

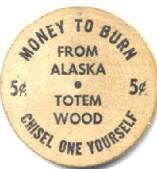
by David Phillips

## Alaska GeoCaching Woods

There is a new category of Alaska woods appearing. These are the woods put out by Alaska Geocachers. These woods feature the geocacher's nicknames and are called signature woods.

These signature woods are left behind in caches found by the wood's owner, thus leaving their "signature" behind, indicating they have found that cache.

I am aware of four geocacher woods, as follows. Three are from Anchorage geocachers, and one from Eagle River.



**EAGLE RIVER:** lr&mlb, Caching since 2/20/2005. Geocaching, Where you are the search engine, 2006. Multicolored, looks like it was done by hand.

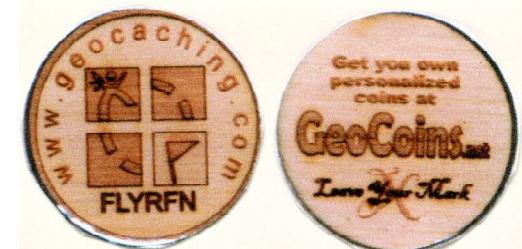
No doubt there will be more as the geocaching hobby expands and matures.

## PRICES REALIZED

From our November 4th auction.

Lot	Bid
256 Anchorage, Alaska Pool Room B-3c	100
257 Cleary, Eddie Willis B-6a	40
258 Fairbanks, Palace Cigar Store B-42a	25
259 Gambell, set of 6	40
260 Kodiak, B&B B-1a	100
261 Savoonga, set of 8	50
262 Seward, Seward Bar B-14a	30
263 Sitka, Fishermans Cafe B-9a	145mb*
264 Skagway, Idaho Saloon set of 3	40
265 Skagway, Mascot Saloon B-17c	40
266 Sparrevohn B-1e	50mb
267 Talkeetna, HWN 2 pcs. B-3 a&b	95mb*
268 Tanana, Timothy's B-10a	80
269 Tenakee, Tillicum Club B-5a	210mb*
270 Tenakee, Tillicum Club B-5b	135mb*
271 Valdez, Pinzon B-16cI	7
272 Valdez, Valdez Hotel B-21a	80mb*
273 Yakutat, St. Elias Pkg. B-2c	185mb*
274 Yes Bay, APF B-3e	110mb*
275 Alaska Statehood Medals	250
276 Fairbanks Coin Club Medals	200
277 Alaska Purchase Medals (US Mint)	50mb*
278 Alaska Purchase Medals (large)	105mb*
279 Pioneer Memorial Park Medals	44mb
280 US Army Alaska Medals	60mb*
281 Anchorage Fur Rendezvous Medals	350mb*
282 Cook Bicentennial Medals	36
283 Kodiak Beachcombers	45
284 Univ. of AK lead die trials	110mb*
285 Kodiak Bicentennial Medals	20
286 Kodiak Pioneers	25mb*
287 Alaska ephemera	20
301 10kt gold fishwheel charm	70

mb=sold to mail bidder. \* = mail bid reduced.  
Mail bid reductions saved our mail bidders \$634



**ANCHORAGE:** FLYRFN, [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com).



**ANCHORAGE:** Mama Mouse and the Mice Kids. Both of these have a common reverse, directing geocachers to "Get you own personalized coins at GeoCoins.net"



**ANCHORAGE:** The Slat Rat, Wherever you go, be there.

# ALASKA GOLD TOKENS NEW 5 DWT GOLD TOKEN

Two new varieties of the small Alaska gold tokens have recently come to light. These are shown greatly enlarged to show detail.



Alaska Round  $\frac{1}{4}$  Pinch, 1901 Indian #6.

Obv: Ugly right facing head as on #4, but 16 stars and head centered on the die.

Rev: 21 leaves left and right, similar to other dies but unique to this variety.



Alaska Round  $\frac{1}{4}$  DWT, 1909, Miner, #11. Note: This variety is very similar to the very common variety #2. However, both dies are different. The obverse is the same as the rare variety #10.

Obv: ALASKA GOLD around \*\*\*A.Y.P.E.\*\*\*, below a standing miner with 19 to left and 09 to right, a shovel and pan behind and a pick-axe resting on his shoulder. Shovel handle ends even with 1, pick point at right foot of A. Dot closer to Y than A and placed high. Compare with MnRQ4. Denticles around rim. Die MnRQ5.

Rev:  $\frac{1}{4}$  (shield) DWT. inside a wreath. Leaf at left ends over serif on 1, leaf at right ends well above the right edge of 4, bow loops made up from 3 line segments each, no berries. 5 leaf pairs right and left. We away from bow, all leaves away from denticles, 1 break in each bow loop, 2 separated knots in bow.

Die A1RQ17.

Our thanks to Mike Locke for providing this information. See his web pages on small gold tokens at:  
<http://www.calgoldcoin.com/default.htm> or just the Alaska at: <http://www.calgoldcoin.com/alaska.htm>



Shown actual size above, and enlarged below, we present our new, 5 DWT gold token. Rich Witrosky was kind enough to sell us some more Nome gold. We have enough gold for 7 or 8 of these, and then a few of the 1 DWT.

These will be priced at \$250 postpaid. The price is subject to change if gold prices go up. If you would like one when they are ready, let us know. We will put you on a waiting list and advise when they are available. An email address would expedite correspondence. You are under no obligation to purchase should you change your mind.



1 DWT made from Nome gold are still available for \$75. 1 DWT tokens from Fortymile gold are \$65.

## PRICES RELIZED, CONT.

Valdez, Copper Block, \$1, B-4cI	RLOB1595.00NB
Valdez, Knight Island Copper, B-11a	400.00
Yakutat, Y&S Ry., 5¢, B-1aII	295.00OB
Skagway, WP Dance Hall scrip, 5 (Lyn Knight sale)	184.00
AYPE Encased Cent, round	66.00
(2)AYPE Encased Cent, round	63.88
Alaska's Favorite Beer, Ranier encased cent	27.00#
AYPE, $\frac{1}{4}$ DWT, pin	82.00
AYPE, $\frac{1}{4}$ DWT	249.00OB
AYPE, 1 DWT	281.00
AYPE, 1 DWT, edge damage	306.51
AYPE, 1 DWT, stick pin	61.00
Alaska Gold, TwoTooWah (looks brass)	201.50
Tierra del Fuego, Spring Hill, 50¢	RLOB£149.99NB#
Tierra del Fuego, Spring Hill, 50¢	£99.99OB

OB = Opening Bid NB = No Bid RL = relist

RNM = Reserve Not Met R = Reserve

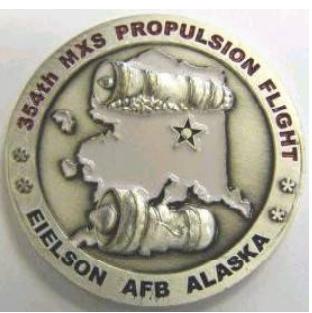
BIN = Buy it now DNS = Did Not Sell

\* = see For the Record # = Carried over from last month

# MILITARY CHALLENGE COINS



**(EIELSON AFB):** USA Meddac Alaska, Arctic Medic. Red, white, blue, green, yellow, white and black enamel on bronze. Actual size 45mm.



**EIELSON AFB:** 168th Air Refueling Wing. Yellow, dark blue, light blue, white, red and green on oxidized silver colored metal, 39mm.



**EIELSON AFB:** 168th Air Refueling Wing, Alaska Air National Guard. Yellow, dark blue, light blue, white, red and green on oxidized silver colored metal, actual size 45mm.



**EIELSON AFB:** 168th Air Refueling Wing, 20th Anniversary, 1986-2006. Yellow, dark blue, light blue, white, red and green on oxidized silver colored metal. Actual size 45mm

**KEFLAVIK NAS, ICELAND:** Eyes of the north, Iceland defence system, 50th anniv. 39mm gold plated.

# FOR THE RECORD



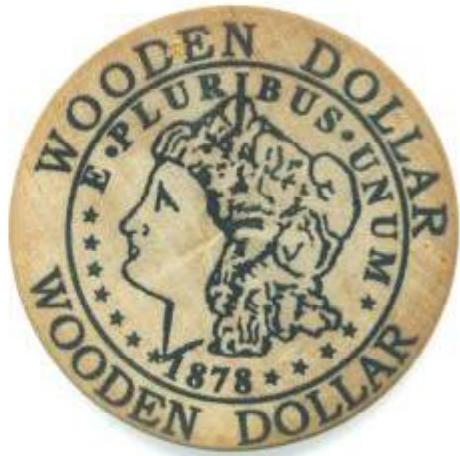
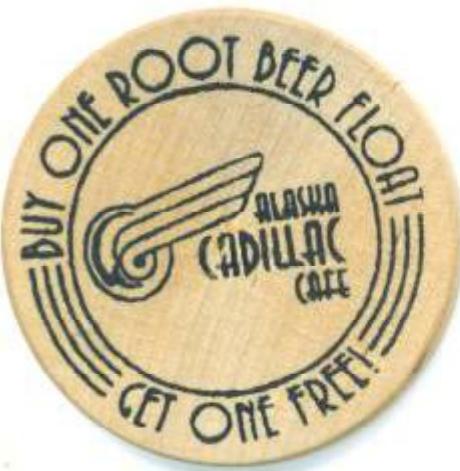
**ANCHORAGE:** Pioneers of Alaska, 90th Grand Igloo Convention. 1 oz. silver.



**ANCHORAGE:** Stallone's of Alaska, \$25 redeemable in merchandise. This would be a gift certificate token. Frosted brass, with polished horse head, 40mm.



**CATALLA (KATALLA):** Alaska Pacific Railway & Terminal Co. Pay Roll Number. Brass, 36mm (Kaye Dethridge).



**WASILLA:** Alaska Cadillac Cafe, Buy one Root Beer Float, get one free. Black on wood, 60mm.



**PALMER:** American Legion Post 15, Good for one free drink. Black(?) on yellow plastic, approximately 40mm.



**FAIRBANKS:** OK Lumber, Kids Club Money. Aluminum, 25mm.

**FAIRBANKS:** It has been determined that the undated Fairbanks Daily News-Miner ingot shown last month was 2001.